

States Code (as amended by this section), the General Accounting Office shall submit to the President and each house of Congress a final report on the operation of the program established under such section. The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the General Accounting Office, and any recommendation the General Accounting Office considers appropriate.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2 of the Semipostal Authorization Act is amended by striking subsections (b), (c), and (e).

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and the program under section 416 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall be established not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-134, his appointment of Nancy Rutledge Connery, of Maine, to serve as a member of the Amtrak Reform Council, vice Joseph Vranich, of Pennsylvania, effective July 28, 2000.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-498, reappoints Charles Terrell, of Massachusetts, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2000, effective July 28, 2000.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-173, announces the appointment of Frank J. Williams, of Rhode Island, to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, effective August 24, 2000.

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-40, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-41, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-42, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-43, TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-44

Mr. DOMENICI. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Injunction of Secrecy be removed from the following treaties and protocols transmitted to the Senate on September 5, 2000, by the President of the United States:

Treaty with Costa Rica on Return of Vehicles and Aircraft (Treaty Document No. 106-40); Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement (Treaty Document 106-41); Investment Treaty with Lithuania (Treaty Document No. 106-

42); Protocol Amending the 1950 Consular Convention with Ireland (Treaty Document No. 106-43); Treaty with Panama on the Return of Vehicles and Aircraft (Treaty Document No. 106-44).

I further ask consent that the treaties and protocols be considered as having been read the first time; that they be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's messages be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The messages of the President are as follows:

#### *To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for the Return of Stolen, Embezzled, or Appropriated Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, signed at San Jose on July 2, 1999. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, this Treaty will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, embezzled, or appropriated and taken to Costa Rica.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

#### *To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to accession, the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks adopted at Madrid June 27, 1989, which entered into force December 1, 1995. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate are the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol and a February 2, 2000, letter from the Council of the European Union regarding voting within the Assembly established under the Protocol.

The Protocol will offer several major advantages to U.S. trademark owners. First, registration of trademarks internationally will be possible without obtaining a local agent and without filing an application in each Contracting Party. If the United States accedes to

the Protocol, the Protocol will provide a trademark registration filing system that will permit a U.S. trademark owner to file for registration in any number of Contracting Parties by filing a single standardized application in English, and with a single payment in dollars, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). The PTO will forward the application to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (respectively, the "International Bureau" and "WIPO"), which administers the Protocol. Second, under the Protocol, renewal of a trademark registration in each Contracting Party may be made by filing a single request with a single payment. These two advantages should make access to international protection of trademarks more readily available to both large and small U.S. businesses.

Third, the Protocol will facilitate the recording internationally of a change of ownership of a mark with a single filing. United States businesses experience difficulties effecting valid assignments of their marks internationally due to burdensome administrative requirements for recordation of an assignment in many countries. These difficulties can hinder the normal transfer of business assets. The Protocol will permit the holder of an international registration to record the assignment of a trademark in all designated Contracting Parties upon the filing of a single request with the International Bureau, accompanied by a single payment. To carry out the provisions of the Protocol, identical implementing legislation, which is supported by my Administration, was passed by the House of Representatives and introduced in the Senate.

Accession to the Protocol is in the best interests of the United States. Therefore, I recommend the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to accession, subject to the declarations described in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 5, 2000.

#### *To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Washington on January 14, 1998. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Lithuania was the third such treaty signed between the United